

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A headwear comprising a crown adapted to substantially conform to a wearer's head, the crown comprising a substantially planar panel having opposing interior and exterior surfaces and an aperture which extends through the panel from the interior surface to the exterior surface, the aperture operably configured to secure a longitudinally extending article so that, when the article is inserted through the aperture, a proximal end of the article is contactingly supported adjacent to the exterior surface of the panel and a medial portion of the article is supported so as to extend adjacent to and substantially parallel with the interior surface of the panel, wherein the crown further comprises a flexible member affixed to the interior surface of the panel to form a closed sleeve or pouch to contactingly support the medial portion of the article on a side opposite the inner surface of the panel.
2. (Original) The headwear of claim 1 in combination with the article inserted through the aperture as described in claim 1.
3. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the article comprises a golf tee and wherein the proximal end of said golf tee includes a golf ball support surface configured to contactingly support a golf ball.

4. (Currently amended) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the aperture is characterized as a first aperture and wherein the headwear further comprises a second aperture in the panel, the second aperture extending from the interior surface to the exterior surface and being aligned with the first aperture so that, upon insertion of the article through the first aperture, a distal end of the article extends through the second aperture and is contactingly supported adjacent the exterior surface of the panel, and wherein the flexible member extends between the first and second apertures.

5. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the crown comprises a plurality of adjacently disposed panels.

6. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the panel is formed of a layer of flexible fabric.

7. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the aperture comprises a slit.

8. (Original) The headwear of claim 7, wherein the aperture further comprises a peripherally disposed series of adjacent loops of threads so that the aperture is characterized as having a substantially button-hole configuration.

9. (Currently amended) The headwear of claim 1, wherein the headwear further flexible member comprises an interior headband affixed to the panel and which extends about an interior circumference of the crown, and wherein the aperture is located in the

panel so that, upon insertion of the article through said aperture, the medial portion of the article and a distal end of the article are contactingly supported in a gap between the interior surface of the panel and the headband.

10. (Currently amended) The headwear of claim 9, wherein the panel comprises a flap portion which wraps around and affixes to the headband, and wherein the headwear further ~~comprising~~ comprises a layer of protective material disposed at a base of the flap portion between the distal end of the article and said base to reduce wear of the flap portion by the distal end.

11. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, further comprising a bill which projects from the crown to form a visor for the wearer, and wherein the panel is contactingly adjacent to the bill.

12. (Original) The headwear of claim 1, further comprising a bill which projects from the crown to form a visor for the wearer on a first side of the crown, and wherein the panel is disposed on a second side of the crown opposite the first side.

13. (Currently amended) The headwear of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the flexible member comprises a backing layer affixed to the inner surface of the panel to form a closed sleeve to accommodate and enclose the medial portion of the article.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a headwear comprising a crown adapted to substantially conform to a wearer's head,

the crown comprising a substantially planar panel having opposing interior and exterior surfaces and an aperture which extends through the panel from the interior surface to the exterior surface, the crown further comprising a flexible member affixed to the interior surface of the panel and disposed adjacent the aperture; and

a golf tee having a proximal end with a golf ball support surface to contactingly support a golf ball, a medial portion and a tapered distal end, the golf tee inserted through the aperture so that the proximal end is contactingly supported adjacent to the exterior surface of the panel and the medial portion of the article extends adjacent to and substantially parallel with the interior surface of the panel between said interior surface and the flexible member.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the aperture comprises a slit.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the aperture is characterized as a first aperture and wherein the apparatus further comprises a second aperture in the panel, the second aperture extending from the interior surface to the exterior surface and being aligned with the first aperture so that the distal end of the golf tee extends through the second aperture and is contactingly supported adjacent the exterior surface of the panel, and wherein the flexible member extends between the first and second apertures.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first and second apertures each further comprise a peripherally disposed series of adjacent loops of threads so that the first and second apertures are each respectively characterized as having a substantially button-hole configuration.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the flexible member ~~headwear~~ further comprises an interior headband affixed to the panel and which extends about an interior circumference of the crown, and wherein the aperture is located in the panel so that, upon insertion of the golf tee through said aperture, the medial portion and the distal end of the golf tee are supported in a gap between the interior surface of the panel and the headband.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a backing layer affixed to the inner surface of the panel to form a closed sleeve to accommodate and enclose the medial portion of the golf tee.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the flexible member comprises a layer of canvas or semi-elastic fabric affixed to the interior surface of the panel.

23. (New) A headwear comprising a crown adapted to substantially conform to a wearer's head, the crown comprising a substantially planar panel having opposing interior and exterior surfaces and an interior headband affixed to the panel and which extends about an interior circumference of the crown, the panel comprising an aperture which extends between said interior and exterior surfaces adjacent the headband and configured so that, upon insertion of an elongated article through said aperture, a medial portion of the article and a distal end of the article are contactingly supported in a gap between the interior surface of the panel and the headband, and wherein the headwear further comprises a layer of protective material at a junction between the headband and the panel configured to support said distal end of the article.